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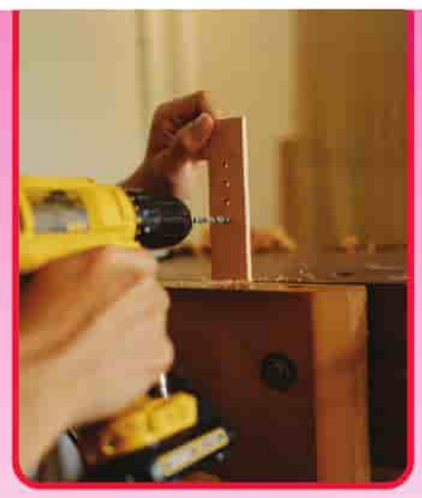

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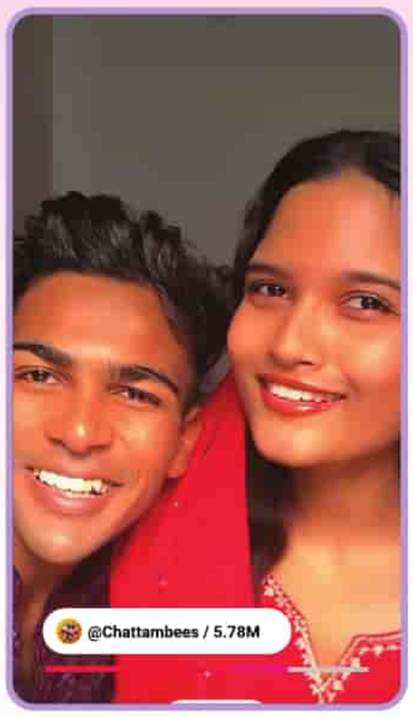

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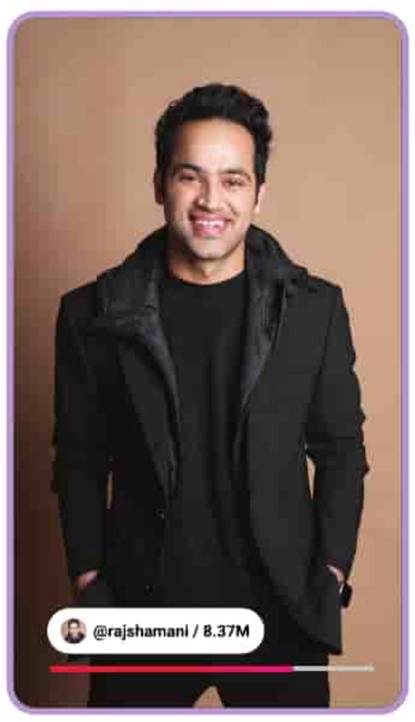

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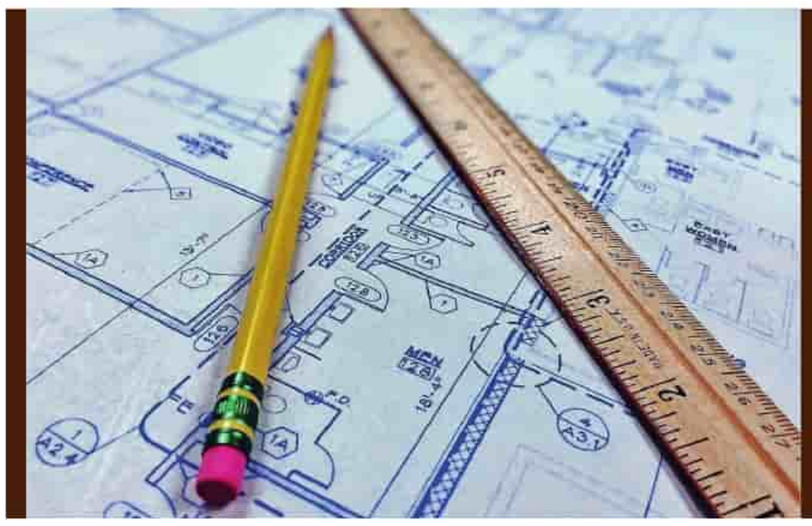

FEE FALLIN'

K'taka govt suffers loss of ₹3.96 crore due to failure of govt engineering, polytechnic colleges' principals to collect fees

PAGE 2

LAST STRAW

Steep BWSSB hikes hamper paying guest accommodations; owners seek reclassification, warning of rising rents

PAGE 5

Back-to-back harassment cases in Cooke Town expose glaring lacunae in police response — in one case, no female officer was present to support survivor, both women had to wait for hours at station to file joint complaint

HANDLE WITH CARE

Women say bystanders often fail to intervene effectively

| Sanjana CS
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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Two incidents of harassment, two victims, two hoysalas, two scarring stories. Last Friday in back-to-back incidents, two women were harassed by an unidentified man in Cooke Town between 6.45 pm -7.30 pm, leaving survivors traumatised.

The police response was prompt, as they arrived on both the scenes within 30 minutes, but no female officers were present to assist one of the victims and no trauma support was provided.

The survivors were left waiting at the station until 11 pm to file a joint complaint, highlighting a glaring gap in sensitive response protocols. According to the victim, the police have nabbed the accused within 48 hours of the incident, but officials are yet to confirm this.

"People's casual attitude (towards harassment) is dangerous. It shows how comfortably such incidents are ignored, dismissed, and forgotten until they happen again

— Farah, citizen

What happened that day?

On Friday evening, a 42-year-old mother, her child, and a friend visited Milton Park in Cooke Town for a casual walk. While the child played, the two women strolled nearby when, around 6.45 pm, an unidentified man entered the park and suddenly blocked their path.

"I paused because I didn't know which way to move, and he did the same—just staring at us. That's when I knew something was off," said the mother. She stepped behind a tree to keep distance, but the man followed her and suddenly charged toward her with arms outstretched, saying, "Come hug me, I'm single." She quickly crouched to avoid him and screamed.

Despite running toward the more crowded area of the park, no one intervened. The man fled through a gate leading to a nearby road, shouting, "I'm not scared of anyone. Go complain to the police." Fearing he might return, the victim called her husband, who rushed to the spot, and together they contacted the police. Officers arrived within five minutes.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6 >>

Fishing in troubled waters

Green Tribunal pulls up state pollution board, other agencies for not filing reports on fish kill incidents between 2017 and 2023 in B'luru lakes

| Garima Prasher
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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

The National Green Tribunal (NGT) has criticised the Karnataka State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB) and other agencies for not filing reports on fish kill incidents between 2017 and 2023 in Bengaluru's lakes.

The Southern bench of the Tribunal said in its order dated June 4, 2025, that the report by KSPCB and other official respondents in a suo motu case has not been filed despite several opportunities.

"Despite several opportunities having been granted, the report of the Karnataka SPCB is still awaited. Likewise, the official respondents, except Respondent No.1 (Central Pollution Control Board), have not filed their respective replies/reports," said the Green Court in its order.

The Tribunal filed the case based on an article published in Bangalore Mirror. The suo motu case was filed by the principal bench of NGT in May 2024, following the BM article that was published in March. The report highlighted an analysis of fish kill incidents in Bengaluru's lakes conducted by a city-based NGO, ActionAid Association.

The article published in BM highlighted that between 2017 and 2023, Bengaluru

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4 >>

THINGS TO DO

01 Take the stage

'Senior Spotlight: An Open Mic for the 55+', a specially curated event, invites seniors aged 55 and above to share their stories, voices, and talents on a welcoming stage, promising an evening of creativity, laughter, music, and connection.
Where: Pops of Pastel, Basavanagudi;
When: June 15, 5.30 pm to 8 pm

02 Bard speaks

Urban Solace Café is hosting Kanika, a psychotherapist and researcher whose work has previously appeared in Indian Review and Spark, for this 'Tuesdays with the Bard @ Urban Solace' edition.
Where: Urban Solace Café, Ulsoor;
When: June 10, 7.30 pm

03 Flavoursome journey

The Ritz-Carlton is organising 'The Chaat Festival', a celebration of India's beloved street delicacies, elevated through the artistry of their chefs.

Where: The Market, The Ritz-Carlton;
When: May 10 to June 10

04 Cherry on top

This Father's Day, Magnolia Bakery is bringing its signature charm and creativity to a unique, hands-on cupcake decorating workshop for parents and their little ones.
Where: The Yard, Whitefield;
When: June 15, 11 am to 1 pm

05 Living legacy

NGMA Bengaluru, in collaboration with Ananya Drishya, a city-based artists' collective led by SG Vasudev, is organising a special screening of talks by the late Girish Karnad, in loving remembrance of his life and legacy.
Where: National Gallery of Modern Art, Palace Road;
When: June 14, 5 pm

PICS: KAUSHIK JN

Monsoon moments Unexpected rains, brought by erratic June weather, caught Bengaluru residents by surprise; many were seen navigating the drenched roads trying to find shelter, while others playfully enjoyed the drizzle

Fee collection negligence costs government ₹3.96 crore

With most students having graduated, auditors deem recovery of Rs 1.13 crore nearly impossible; CAG demands explanation from Technical Education Department

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The Karnataka government has suffered a financial loss of Rs 3.96 crore due to principals of government engineering and polytechnic colleges failing to collect tuition fees from students. This came to light during an audit by the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG), which flagged the issue in a notice to the Department of Technical Education seeking clarification.

According to the report, in the academic year 2020–21, students who had enrolled in government polytechnic and engineering colleges applied for fee reimbursement under the State Scholarship Portal (SSP). Since 2019–20, the state had adopted the Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) system, wherein the scholarship amount was directly credited to the bank accounts of the students. However, instead of using this money to pay the colleges, several students kept the amount. Despite this, college principals made no effort to recover the fees from the students, resulting in a loss of revenue for the state.

Audit report warns that failure to collect fees will have an adverse impact as tuition fees collected are meant to be used for improving infrastructure in educational institutions

Total engineering fee dues (3 years): Rs 3.19 crore
Polytechnic students (2,526): Rs 75.16 lakh
Overall fee not collected: Rs 3.96 crore

An audit of five government polytechnic colleges revealed that 2,526 students studying from 2020–21 to 2022–23 had received scholarships totalling Rs 75.16 lakh, but colleges failed to collect the fees from them. Additionally, 1,034 students did not even apply for scholarships, resulting in another Rs 30.45 lakh remaining unpaid. The issue extends beyond just a few institutions. In total, 55 government polytechnic colleges and two government engineering colleges have failed to collect Rs 3.21 crore in tuition fees. With most of these students having already graduated, recovering Rs 1.13 crore has been deemed nearly impossible by the auditors.

Development impact

The audit report warns that the failure to collect the fees will adversely impact the Infrastructure Development Plan (IDP), as tuition fees collected are meant to be deposited into the treasury and used for improving infrastructure in educational institutions. The CAG has formally notified the Technical Education Department to take corrective action and submit a reply explaining the lapse in fee collection and its financial implications.

KPSC notification for recruitment quashed

In a major setback to the state government, the Karnataka Administrative Tribunal (KAT) annulled the Karnataka Public Service Commission's (KPSC) February 26, 2024, notification for recruiting 384 Gazetted Probationers, citing a violation of the Supreme Court's 50% reservation cap, and also struck down the government's December 2022 order that raised quotas to 56% without legislative approval. The tribunal, led by Chairperson Justice RB Budihal and member Raghavendra Auradkar, ruled in response to a petition by BN Madhu of Channapatna, challenging the legality of the increased quota based on the 2022 ordinance issued by the Basavaraj Bommai-led BJP government, which raised SC/ST reservation from 18% to 24%.

While allowing KPSC to issue a fresh notification within legal limits, the verdict disrupts the recruitment process, affecting thousands of aspirants, and the state government is now expected to challenge the ruling in the High Court. **–BMB**

233-year-old paper features war accounts

In a rare and significant find, historian and researcher Dr B Ramachari has unearthed a 233-year-old edition of the prestigious British newspaper 'The Mail' or 'Claypoole's Daily Advertiser', which contains a detailed account of Tipu Sultan's valour during the Third Anglo-Mysore War.

The newspaper, published in 1792, had a series of letters written by British officer Lord Cornwallis to the then Governor-General. These letters vividly describe the events of the war and provide compelling insights into Tipu Sultan's military strategies and bravery.

According to the report, Tipu Sultan, accompanied by a formidable army of 30,000 soldiers, was advancing from Arcot toward the Carnatic region, camping near Bengaluru and Srirangapatna. Lord Cornwallis, in his letters, had expressed concern to the Governor-General about the possible consequences of engaging Tipu Sultan in battle. **–BMB**

Curriculum not yet included in schools

The Police Department's proposed road safety curriculum has not yet been incorporated into the state school syllabus. The Education Department has decided to bring this matter to the attention of the textbook committee chairperson for necessary action.

Police Department had prepared a detailed curriculum on road safety and requested the Department of State Education Research and Training (DSERT) to integrate it into various grade-level syllabi. DSERT officials forwarded this proposal to the Karnataka Textbook Society (KTBS).

In response, KTBS managing directors informed that any addition or removal of topics requires approval from a textbook revision or creation committee appointed by the government. Once such a committee is formed, the Police Department's prepared road safety curriculum will be formally presented for consideration. **–BMB**

Retired IPS officers urge reconsideration in stampede case

The Indian Police Foundation (IPF), a national body of senior retired IPS officers and public safety experts, has written to Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah urging him to revoke the suspension of five senior police officers, including the Bengaluru Police Commissioner, in connection with the recent stampede during the Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) Indian Premier League (IPL) victory celebration at Chinnaswamy Stadium.

In a detailed memorandum dated June 9, the IPF expressed its condolences over the tragic deaths but raised serious concern over the government's hasty decision to suspend the officers before the conclusion of the judicial inquiry. "Suspensions without a thorough investigation risk being perceived as scapegoating, potentially demoralising the force and undermining institutional integrity," the letter stated.

The IPF noted that large public events, particularly those announced at short notice, require coordinated action from multiple agencies, not just the police. It argued that isolating the police for punitive action while ignoring failures by other stakeholders fails to reflect the complexity of such incidents.

It also urged that a neutral, non-adversarial, post-incident review and analysis be conducted to help identify systemic flaws and recommend best practices for future crowd management. Calling for a fair and evidence-based approach, the IPF appealed to the state government to reinstate the suspended officers until the inquiry concludes and to ensure that any disciplinary action is based on factual findings. **–BMB**

Techie murders woman over obsessive love affair

A 35-year-old woman was brutally murdered by her 25-year-old lover in a fit of obsession, after he claimed she belonged to him alone. The shocking incident took place at a lodge near Subramanyapura last Friday.

The deceased, identified as Harini, a wealthy homemaker from Hemmigepura had been in an extramarital relationship with a techie named Yashas. The two allegedly met at a local fair and began a relationship that escalated to regular meetings. Harini's husband had grown suspicious and allegedly confronted her and restricted her movements after discovering the affair.

Despite the confrontation, Harini contacted Yashas again. Enraged over being ignored, and obsessed with the idea that Harini was his alone, Yashas reportedly bought a knife and met her at a lodge near GM Palya under Subramanyapura Police limits.

After the two met, Yashas stabbed Harini in the neck, killing her on the spot. He then attempted suicide by stabbing himself in the chest but failed. He later walked into Kengeri Police Station and confessed to the crime. Kengeri Police transferred him to Subramanyapura Police, who have taken him into custody. Further investigation is underway. **–BMB**

Yeshwanthpur APMC traders to be shifted to Dasanapura

The wholesale traders of onion, potato, garlic, and ginger from the Yeshwanthpur APMC market will be relocated to the Dasanapura market near Nelamangala after July, following delays caused by trader opposition and legal intervention. The government had earlier set a June 1 deadline for the relocation, but traders raised concerns over the lack of basic infrastructure at the new market and took the issue to court. In response, APMC officials have now deferred the shift to a later date, post-July. Traders argue that the Dasanapura market lacks essential facilities, including adequate shop space, proper roads, and a police outpost. "Shops built recently at Dasanapura are just 300–400 sq ft, while Yeshwanthpur shops range from 900 to 3,000 sq ft. How can we do business in such cramped conditions?" questioned B Ravishankar, Secretary of the Onion-Potato Traders' Association.

Despite the government's claims that over 150 shops have been allotted and 50% of traders have already relocated, many traders remain hesitant due to what they call "token shops" constructed in narrow passageways and footpath-like spaces, unsuitable for wholesale trading. **–BMB**

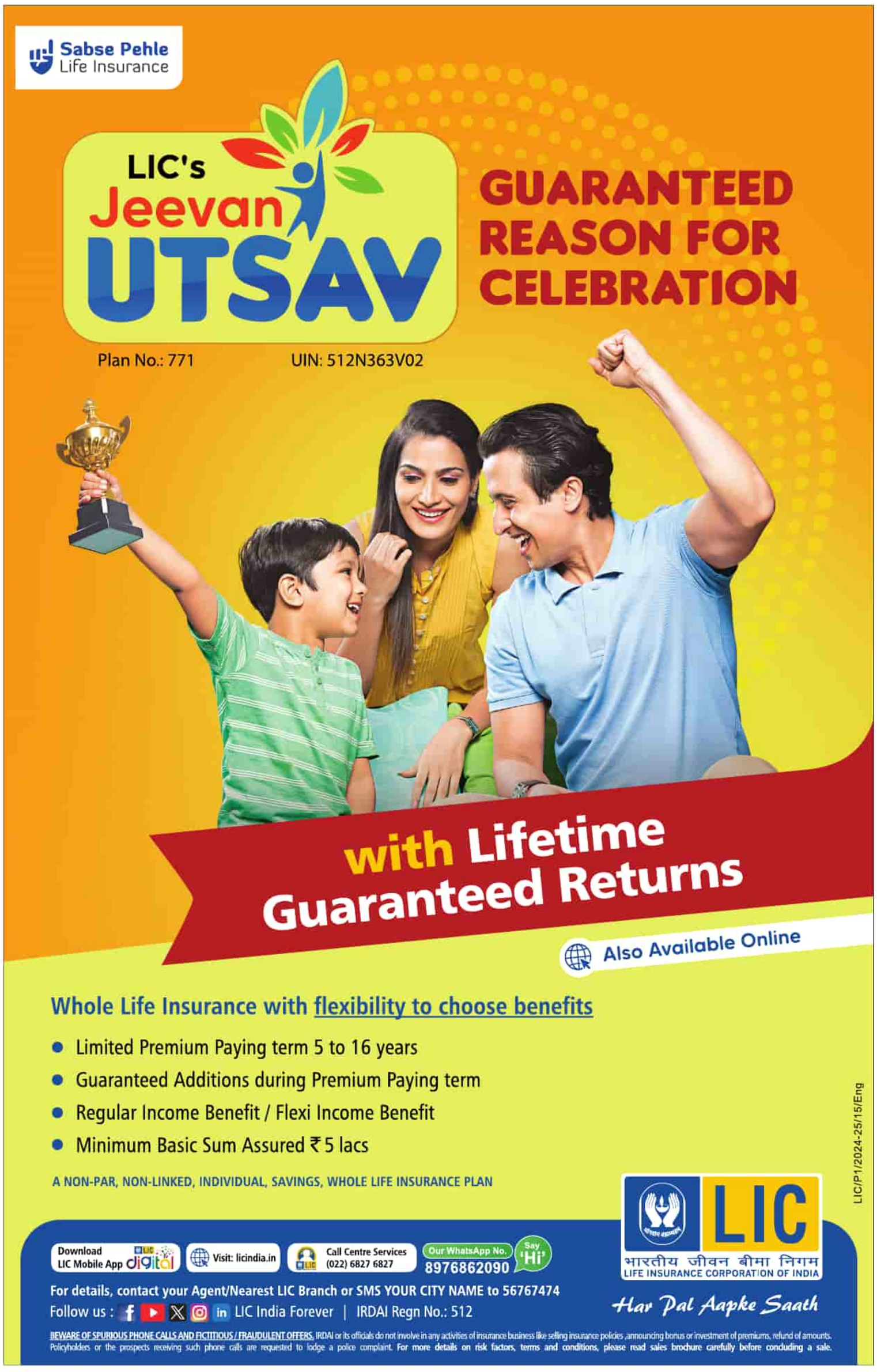
Youth found dead below Airport Road flyover, police suspect fall from height

A young man was found dead under suspicious circumstances near the Airport Road flyover around 12.30 am on Monday. The body was discovered lying on the road in front of the Mall of Asia, prompting concerned locals to alert the police immediately.

The deceased, Muniraj, a resident of Hebbal, is suspected to have fallen from the flyover. Police sources said that an unattended bike was found parked on the flyover directly above the spot where the body was found, raising suspicion that the 22-year-old may have arrived there on the two-wheeler, stopped, and either accidentally or intentionally fallen to his death.

Officers from Kodigehalli police station rushed to the scene and conducted a preliminary inspection. However, no eyewitnesses or surveillance footage confirming the sequence of events have been found so far. Authorities are yet to determine whether it was an accident, suicide, or if foul play was involved.

The body has been shifted for postmortem, and police are working to identify the victim and trace the ownership of the motorbike. A case of unnatural death has been registered, and further investigation is underway. **–BMB**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Smart cards yet to reach 'Shakti' scheme beneficiaries

Despite repeated directions, Karnataka's Transport Department delays smart card rollout under 'Shakti' scheme, raising concerns over tracking and fund misuse

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Despite spending over ₹8,815 crore in 23 months (up to April 2024) under the 'Shakti' scheme, which allows women to travel for free on state-run buses in Karnataka, the Transport Department has yet to implement the distribution of smart cards to beneficiaries. This delay has raised questions about the scheme's accountability, beneficiary tracking, and financial transparency.

The Finance Department has repeatedly directed the Transport Department to issue smart cards to eligible women. However, no concrete steps have been taken, leaving the expenditure estimates unreliable and the identification of genuine beneficiaries uncertain.

The 'Shakti' scheme, launched on June 11, 2023, was the first of the Karnataka government's five guarantee schemes to be implemented. On the launch day, the Chief Minister, Deputy CM, and Transport Minister flagged off the initiative by issuing free tickets to women passengers. Since then, the scheme has enabled free bus travel for women across the state.

Inflated ticket claims under 'Shakti' scheme raise loss concerns

Some women use Aadhaar cards from other states to get free rides, while others take long-distance tickets but disembark midway, raising concerns about misuse

₹8,815 Cr spent so far

As per data available, approximately 459 crore tickets have been issued to women passengers up to April 2024, incurring a total expenditure of ₹8,815 crore for the state. Officials believe smart card distribution would offer accurate data on the number of beneficiaries, helping ensure proper allocation of funds.

Missed opportunity to prevent misuse

Initially, the Transport Department had planned to issue Aadhaar-linked smart cards to ensure that only eligible women could avail of the free travel. These cards would help track the routes and distances women travel — from taluk to district to state level — and provide reliable data for reimbursements. The e-Governance Centre was also reportedly working on integrating Aadhaar numbers with the cards. However, this plan has since stalled. As the scheme nears its two-year mark, there has been no renewed effort or discussion to resume smart card distribution.

Meanwhile, multiple allegations have emerged regarding misuse of the scheme. Some women reportedly show Aadhaar cards from other states to avail of free rides, while others obtain tickets for long distances but disembark midway. There are also claims of inflated ticketing to draw extra reimbursements, causing losses to the government.

Finance department raises red flags

Sources said that the Finance Department has consistently raised objections about the lack of a smart card mechanism and the resulting ambiguity in expenditure. It has warned the Transport Department that without proper beneficiary verification, future reimbursements may be withheld.

No government directive yet

Sources from the e-Governance Centre confirmed that while there was an initial plan to issue smart cards, no clear directive has been received since then. There is currently no active discussion or preparation underway for card distribution. The Finance Department insists that smart cards are vital for accurate data collection, preventing misuse, and potentially saving crores of rupees for the govt. Although funds continue to be released to avoid inconveniencing women or stalling the scheme, another formal reminder will soon be issued, sources said.

Namma Metro adds more baby care facilities

Namma Metro has introduced new breastfeeding centres at three metro stations to assist mothers traveling with infants. Under the Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiative of the State Bank of India (SBI), in collaboration with the Child Help Foundation, dedicated breastfeeding rooms have been established at Banashankari, National College (R V Road), and Bennigannahalli metro stations. With this, the total number of infant feeding centres at Namma Metro stations has increased, ensuring greater convenience for lactating mothers. The move comes in response to rising public demand following a viral video that highlighted the lack of such facilities. The clip, which surfaced a few months ago, showed a mother struggling to breastfeed her child at Trinity station, with her husband shielding her in the absence of a designated space. The incident sparked widespread concern on social media and led to calls for better baby care amenities at metro stations. Responding to the appeal, Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) had earlier set up similar facilities at Kengeri, Majestic, Yeshwanthpur, Baiyappanahalli, and Yelachenahalli stations. **–BMB**

Chances given, but reports never arrived

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

witnessed as many as 61 fish kill incidents across multiple lakes. The detailed analysis of these incidents conducted by ActionAid Association showed that four lakes, namely Bhatrahalli, Munnekollala, Chelekere, and Iblur, with multiple fish kills in the given period, have exclusive Sewage Treatment Plants (STPs). The highest number of fish kills (6) was recorded at Kothnur Lake, followed by five episodes at Haralur and three at Madiwala, Bhatrahalli, and Kundalhalli lakes.

Moreover, in 2023 alone, 20 fish kill episodes were observed in 15 waterbodies, with multiple incidents reported from Kothnur, Kundalahalli, and Bhatrahalli lakes. Three of the 15 lakes (Kothnur, Bhatrahalli, and Iblur) also had a history of fish kill in 2022. The study also underlined that the number of these incidents is only increasing year after year.

A correlation between water quality analysis of these lakes and incidents of fishkill was also established. The report underlined that the primary cause of all these incidents was untreated sewage. These lakes are situated around the 110 villages with no underground drainage connection except Sankey Tank and Madiwala Tank. Analysis showed that nine out of the 15 lakes that recorded these incidents in 2023 had water quality under Class E for one to five months.

Following the report, NGT had noted violations of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974, Solid Waste Management Guidelines, 2016, and provisions of the Environment Protection Act, 1986, and sent notices to Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP), Karnataka State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB), Department of Fisheries of Animal Husbandry, Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), and Deputy Commissioner & District Magistrate.

"KSPCB has been monitoring the water quality of lakes and rivers under the National Water Monitoring programme (NWMP) as a formality. NWMP has not gone beyond testing. Both CPCB and NGT must come down heavily on the state pollution monitoring agencies about their roles and existence. If SPCBs take no action on mitigating pollution, the NWMP is a waste of resources. KSPCB is neglecting its duty of restoring water bodies. Similarly, BBMP is missing on preventing pollution as the lake custodian," said Raghavendra B Pacchhapur of ActionAid Association.

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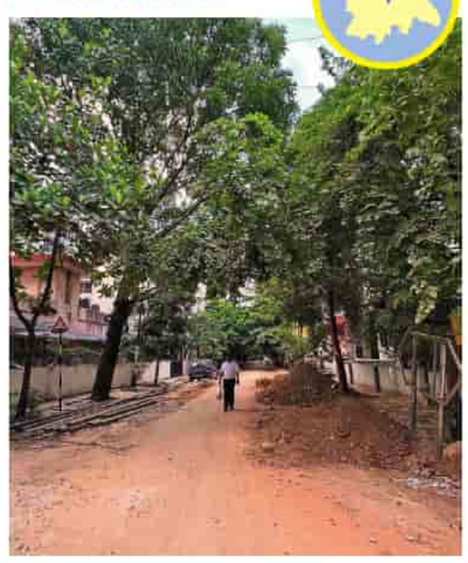
Waste zone
KR Puram

Garbage has been dumped along the PWD Main Road near Uday Nagar and the KR Pura Metro station, causing hygiene and cleanliness concerns.

Road blockage
Jayanagar

Residents of East End B Main, 9th Block, Jayanagar, face daily disruptions as stray cattle block the roads, causing safety concerns.

Work pending
Malleswaram


Pending road work on Canara Union Road, Malleswaram, is causing commuter inconvenience; locals urge BBMP to complete asphalting promptly.

Soaring utility bills prove last straw on city PG owners'

Steep BWSSB fee hike cripples Bengaluru PGs; owners seek reclassification, warn of vanishing affordable housing options

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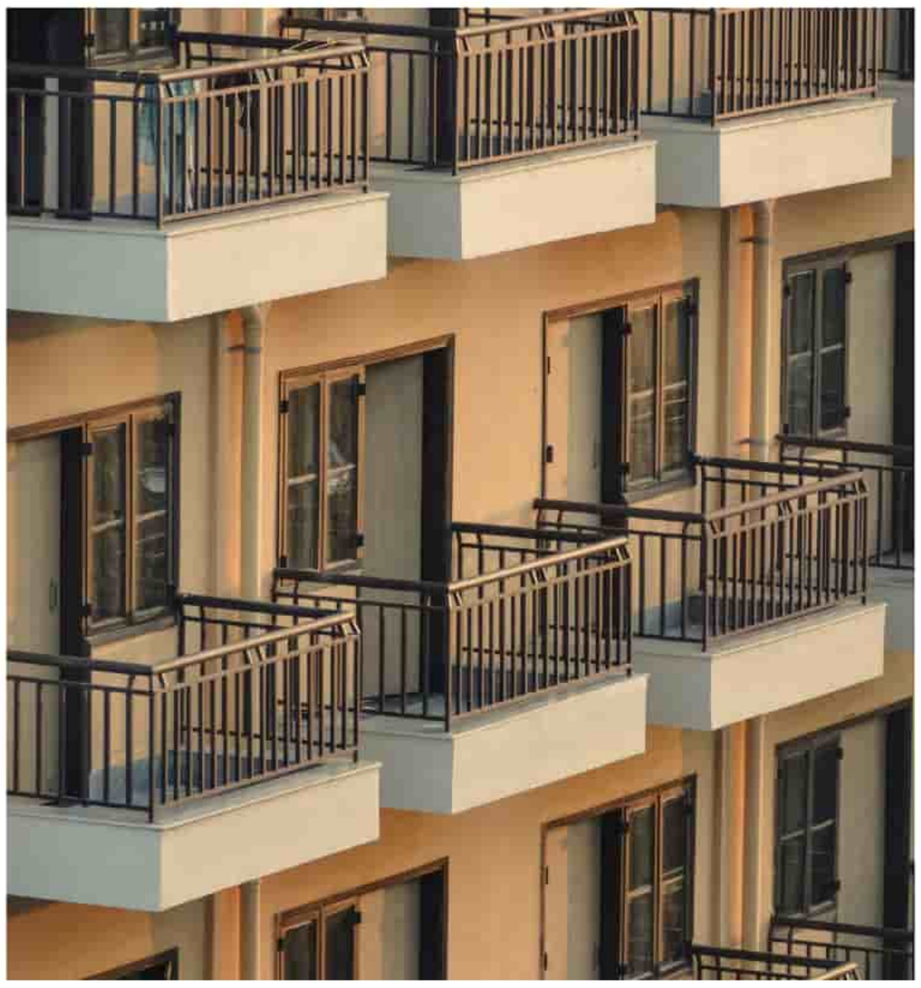

Paying Guest (PG) accommodation owners across Bengaluru are raising alarm over a steep hike in water and sewerage charges imposed by the Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB), calling it a severe financial burden that has already forced several PGs to shut shop. According to the PG Association, nearly 10% to 15% of PGs across the city have shut down over the past few weeks.

The PG Association, which represents over 250 owners, submitted a petition to Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar on May 16, 2025, urging the state government to either roll back or revise the recently implemented tariffs. Copies of the petition were also sent to the BWSSB and the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP), seeking reconsideration of the classification of PGs as commercial units.

PG Association President Arun Kumar said they had met with the BWSSB Chairman about three weeks ago to explain how the steep rise in sewerage fees up by as much as 400% in some cases was hitting their viability. "We asked the board to treat PGs as residential units. He responded positively and assured us the matter would be raised in the next board meeting. But we have heard nothing since," he said.

Many PG owners, Kumar added, are struggling with unpaid utility bills ranging between ₹20,000 and ₹50,000. "On May 5, we also submitted an appeal to the BBMP. They promised to look into it, but we are still waiting for concrete action," he said.

The new tariffs, which took effect last month, have brought in sharp increases in sewerage charges for properties classified as non-residential. PGs, though offering housing services, fall into this category. Owners argue this is both outdated and unfair.

"We are not luxury hotels. We provide budget housing for students and working professionals," Kumar said. "This classification and hike have put us in a bind. We provide food, security, and upkeep, not premium hospitality."

In their petition, the association stressed that PGs are legal and essential housing providers, especially for people migrating to Bengaluru for work or study. "A court order we have cited recognises PGs as residential entities. Yet the current charges treat us as if we are large-scale commercial operators," the petition read.

> **"If no action is taken, more PGs will shut down, making affordable housing in Bengaluru harder to find**
> — Arun Kumar, PG Association President

While water charges have seen a moderate increase, it is the sewerage fees that have sparked widespread concern. A PG operator from Indiranagar said her sewerage bill jumped from ₹1,125 to ₹5,188 in just one month. "This is unsustainable," she said. "We are trying to balance rising costs without cutting services."

For many, the increase is threatening their survival. Rekha S., who runs a 40-bed PG in BTM Layout, said her margins were already thin. "Even before this, we were operating with tight budgets. Now, with these utility bills, I don't think we can make it beyond this month," she said. "We still have to pay for groceries, electricity, repairs, and staff. It's all adding up, and we can't pass all of it to the tenants."

The fear among operators is that the financial pressure will soon be passed on to tenants. According to the association, rents may rise by ₹500 to ₹1,000 per bed per month, making it harder for students and young professionals to afford accommodation in the city. "Some of us are even struggling to return deposits on time," said a PG owner from Whitefield. "Our funds are stretched too thin."

IN BRIEF

HC hears RCB plea in stampede case

During a hearing of petitions by Royal Challengers Sports Private Limited (RCSPL), which manages the RCB IPL team, and DNA Entertainment Ltd seeking to quash the FIR against them regarding the Bengaluru stampede, the Karnataka High Court acknowledged the Advocate General's verbal assurance against precipitative action whilst matters are pending.

Justice S R Krishna Kumar directed the respondents to file their replies by Thursday and recorded a "gentleman's understanding" that status quo would be maintained until then. The court also asked the Advocate General to clarify the distinct allegations against RCB's management and DNA Entertainment.

Advocate General Shashi Kiran Shetty told the court that RCB held the event without prior authorisation and distributed invitations without required permissions. He pointed to tweets from the organisers, saying they significantly contributed to the crowd surge.

The court questioned the differences between FIRs filed against KSCA, RCB, and DNA, and sought specific charges against each. Additional State Public Prosecutor B N Jagadeesha noted that while there were composite allegations, certain charges applied specifically to RCB.

Senior advocate C V Nagesh, appearing for the petitioners, questioned the applicability of serious charges like culpable homicide and requested an interim stay on the investigation. He also cited a tweet by the Chief Minister inviting the public, a claim contested by the State.

The court highlighted the preliminary nature of the investigation and urged caution against drawing early conclusions. It also reiterated that cases involving custody would be prioritised. The hearing will resume on Thursday. —BMB

BM Trippin' Tales

Heavy stone slabs threaten Hampi's iconic musical pillars, say experts

The iconic Musical Pillars at the Vijaya Vittala Temple in Hampi known for its resonating sapta swaras (seven musical notes) faces a growing threat from several massive stone slabs placed beside it five years ago, as part of a now-abandoned reconstruction effort.

The stone blocks, each weighing several tonnes, were brought in as part of a conservation initiative aimed at replacing damaged pillars in the 16th-century mandapa. Though a few replica pillars were crafted to mirror the original Vijayanagara-era style, the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) halted the project midway due to concerns over the authenticity and historical accuracy of the replacements.

Since then, the unused slabs have remained stacked precariously close to the ancient mandapa.

Replica pillars made for restoration remain unused as ASI halted work over authenticity concerns

Conservationists now warn that the continued presence of these heavy stones poses a serious risk to the fragile structure. With frequent rainfall in the region, the additional load could destabilise the platform, which depends on a centuries-old interlocking stone system for structural integrity.

The Vijaya Vittala Temple complex, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, stands as one of the most celebrated architectural marvels of the Vijayanagara Empire. Among its many attractions, the Musical Mandapa holds special significance for its unique pillars that once produced melodious notes when gently tapped. However, in recent years, access to the pillars has been restricted to protect them from physical damage and vandalism. Massive stone slabs remain stacked dangerously close to the ancient mandapa, threatening its fragile structure.

In a bid to provide an alternative experience, QR-code-enabled boards have been installed near the mandapa to offer an audio simulation of the musical tones. While a useful tool for education, experts say such digital features cannot replace the need for physical preservation of the monument itself.

"The massive stone slabs currently placed within the mandapa must be removed without delay to protect the sanctity and structural integrity of this historic monument," urged Virupakshi V, a heritage enthusiast.

With concern mounting from historians and citizens alike, there is a renewed push for immediate action by the ASI to safeguard one of India's most treasured heritage sites.

—Sridhar Vivan

Gaps in police response protocol leave survivors rattled

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Shockingly, in minutes and within 100 metres away near Basha Store on Milton Street, a second incident took place. A 28-year-old woman was approached by the same man, who forcibly kissed her, injuring her lip and violating her in public. Bystanders intervened, but he ran back into Milton Park and attempted another attack. The second victim called the police and soon learned of the earlier assault, confirming it was the same perpetrator.

Concerns over police handling of case

Although two police vehicles reached the spot promptly and took the complaint without delay, the response left the victims with mixed feelings. The first victim said, "They arrived quickly but hesitated to enter the park. When they did, their first reaction was to profile the attacker. When I asked about next steps, they got defensive and said, 'What should we do?'"

It was only after a bystander reported a similar assault near Basha Store that the officers appeared to take the situation more seriously. "The urgency came only after they realised it wasn't an isolated incident," she added.

When the 112 emergency response team first arrived, there was no female officer present. A woman officer only joined during a follow-up visit after the complaint had been formally registered. The victim's husband recounted that while recording the statement around 11 pm, an officer inappropriately asked, "Was he Muslim? Was he Indian?" a question he felt was irrelevant and insensitive.

Another victim (28), said she was assisted by a female officer both times she approached the police. However, they were told not to return the next day as the police personnel were busy with Eid-related bandobast duties. "They promised to act on Monday," she said. "They have CCTV footage now and seem close to identifying the accused."

Repeat incidents worry public

This wasn't the first time such an incident occurred in the McPherson Road area in recent months. On May 15, a woman was stalked by an intoxicated man while returning from a supermarket. A delivery person intervened, but the man continued following her to her gate, hurling abuses. Fortunately, a watchman helped her get inside safely. "It's terrifying — especially that it can also happen in broad daylight," she said.

In another disturbing incident in April, a well-dressed, drunken man exposed himself and misbehaved near High Street Park, a children's play area. Since then, the park has started closing at 7 pm every day. "These men may look educated but behave in disturbing ways, some might even be mentally unwell," a resident observed.

Shockingly, in both instances, no bystanders intervened. One woman, who ran towards a group of people for help, said no one stepped up to help. "They just watched and made excuses like 'he must be mentally unstable' or 'maybe it's a personal matter.' Not one person tried to stop him," she said.

Another victim stressed, "The public plays as important a role as the police. If someone had acted, he might have been caught."

Farah, a concerned resident, shared, "This didn't happen in isolation. One woman was simply out for a walk before a job interview. Another was just buying momos. And one of these incidents took place in a park while children were still playing nearby. It's heartbreaking. One of the women even asked, 'What should I do if this ever happens to me?'"

She added, "People are quick to brush it off, saying things like 'he's probably mentally ill' or 'these things happen and then fade away.' But that kind of casual attitude is dangerous. It shows how comfortably such incidents are ignored, dismissed, and forgotten until they happen again." A joint case was registered at Pulakeshinagar police station under section 74 and 75 of the BNS. Police officials said they were investigating the case.

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I, ERNEST VISHAL PADMANABHAN R/o No. 38, Libras 5th Main Road, Kalkere Main Road, Rajkumar Layout, Horamavu, Bengaluru– 560043. Do Hereby Declare that I have changed my minor Daughter's name From VANDANA VISHAL to VANDANA VISHAL P vide affidavit dated: 09/06/2025 Before Notary B M CHANDRASHEKAR Bangalore.

I, AMIT PREMCHAND BOHRA, R/o No. Flat 20076, Prestige Shantiniketan, Whitefield, Bengaluru– 560048. Do Hereby Declare that I have changed my minor Son's name From ARYA BOHRA to ARYA AMIT BOHRA vide affidavit dated: 06/06/2025 Before Notary B M CHANDRASHEKAR Bangalore.

I, Mihir S/o Subhash Karbelkar R/o Sri Sharada Residency 4th Cross Rd, Tavarekere, Venkateshwara Layout, SG Palya Bengaluru, Karnataka 560029 India have changed my name to Mihir Subhash for all purposes.

I, Gayathri Devi Pampapathi W/o Mudlapur Goudar Pampapathi R/o No 1851/B4, 2nd Main,, S S Layout,A Block,, Davangere 577004,Ka have changed my name to Gayathri Pampapathi For All Purposes.

I, Shailendra Kumar S/o Amarnath Mishra R/o #590,1st Floor, B Block AECS layout Begur B'lore-560068 have changed my name to Sahilendra Mishra.

I Anshika Rajotiya D/O, Mr. Vijay R/o 11125/ 11 Tower 12th Floor ,2 Wing Prestige Royal Gardens Yelahanka Doddaballapura Road, Bengaluru 560064 have changed my name to Nysa Rajotiya.

I, Lalita W/O, S N Ravishankar R/o Flat No F7 Sai Kingsdale Apartment Agara Main Road Horamavu Bengaluru 560043 have changed my name to Lalitha Ravi Shankar for all purposes.

I, SUNIL KUMAR R s/o Rajappa, R/o 5th Bidi Bestamaranahalli Muthagatti Anekal Bengaluru-562106 have changed my name to SUNIL KUMAR for all Purposes.

I, Shankar Ramesh S/O, Ramesh G C R/o No 2052 10th Cross Bhuvaneshwari Nagara Dodballapur Bengaluru Rural 561203 have changed my name to Shankara Ramesh for all purposes.

I, Patel Shaukin Sureshbhai W/o Patel Himanshu Bharatbhai R/o D-1501, Urban Forest Apt, A B Vajpayee Road,Channasandra Main Road, Whitefield, Bangalore-560067 have changed my name to Patel Shaukin Himanshu for all purposes.

I, Pushpavathi Reddy W/O, Kodanda Rama Reddy Koppa Rangappareddy R/O No 249,3rd Main, Panduranganagar, B G Road,Bengaluru 560076 have changed my name to Pushpa Reddy For All Purposes.

I SUDARSHANA H L S/O, Lokesh H D R/o Flat No.301, Adithya Homes, 8th Main, 14th Cross, Judicial Layout, Yelahanka, Bengaluru-560065 have changed my name to SUDARSHAN H L.

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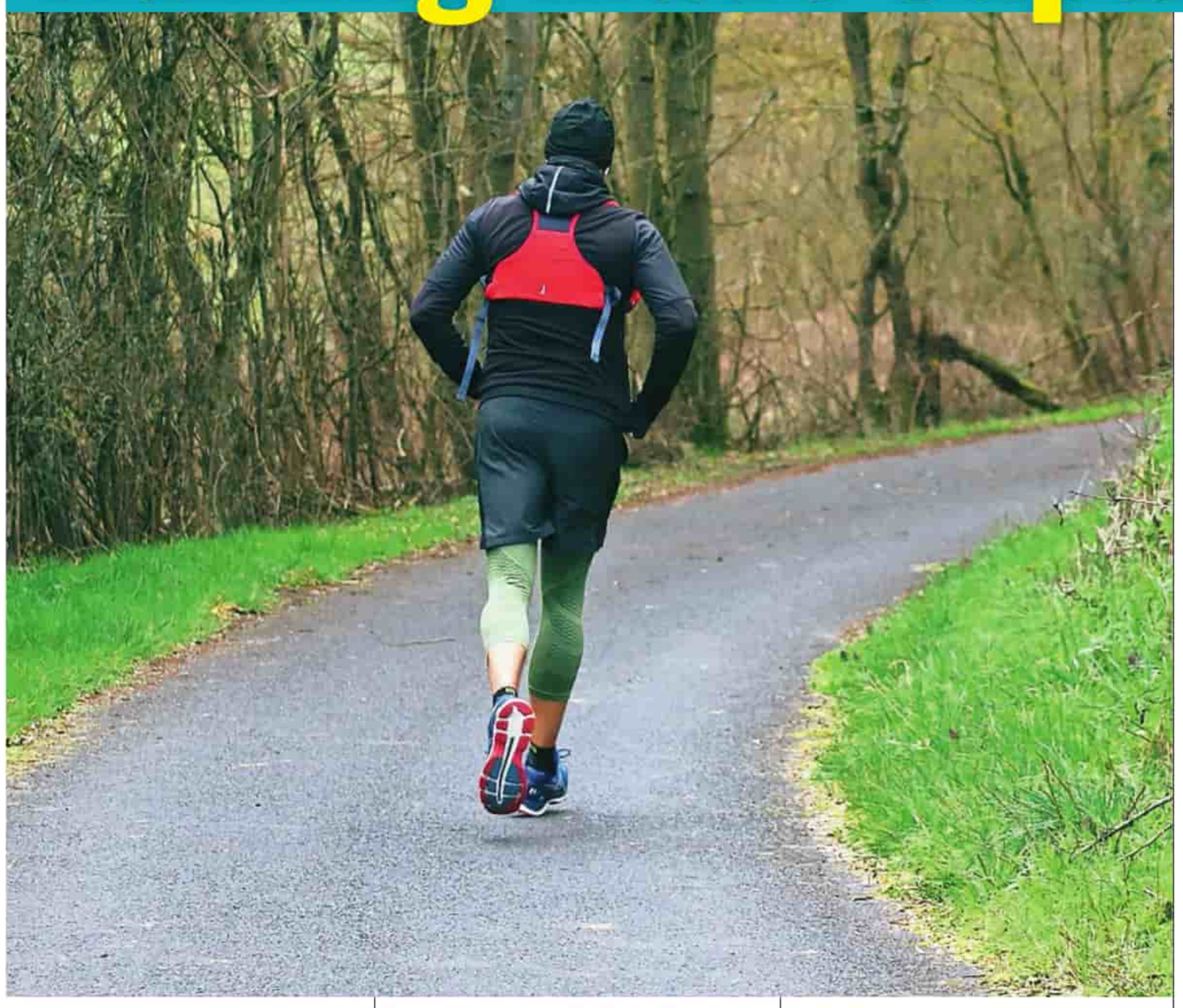
Walking made Japaneasy



Benefits of a fitness trend called Japanese walking

A fitness trend known as Japanese walking is capturing attention online, promising major health benefits with minimal equipment and time.

Based on interval-style bursts of fast and slow walking, Japanese walking was developed by Professor Hiroshi Nose and Associate Professor Shizue Masuki at Shinshu University in Matsumoto, Japan. It involves alternating between three minutes of walking at a higher intensity and three minutes at a lower intensity, repeated for at least 30 minutes, four times per week.

The higher-intensity walking should be done at a level that is "somewhat hard". At this level, it is still possible to talk, but holding a full conversation would be more difficult.

The lower-intensity walking should be done at a level that is "light". At this level, talking should be comfortable, though a little more laboured than an effortless conversation.

Japanese walking has been likened to high-intensity interval training or Hiit, and has been referred to as "high-intensity walking", although it is less taxing than true Hiit and is performed at lower intensities.

It is also easy to perform and requires only a stopwatch and space for walking. It requires little planning and is less time-consuming than other walking targets, such as achieving 10,000 steps a day. This makes it suitable for most people.

What does the evidence show?

Japanese walking offers significant health benefits. A 2007 study from Japan compared this method to lower-intensity continuous walking, with a goal of achieving 8,000 steps per day. Participants who followed the Japanese walking approach experienced notable reductions in body weight. Blood pressure also dropped – more so than in those following the lower-intensity continuous walking routine.

Leg strength and physical fitness were also measured in this study. Both improved to a greater extent in those following the Japanese walking programme, compared to those completing moderate-intensity continuous walking.

A longer-term study also found that Japanese walking protects against the reductions in strength and fitness that happen with ageing.

These improvements in health would also suggest that Japanese walking can help people live longer, though this has not yet been directly studied.

There are a few things to consider with this new walking trend. In the 2007 study, around 22% of people did not complete the Japanese walking programme. For the lower intensity programme, with a target of 8,000 steps per day, around 17% did not complete it. This means that Japanese walking may not be suitable for everyone, and it might not be any easier or more attractive than simple step-based targets.

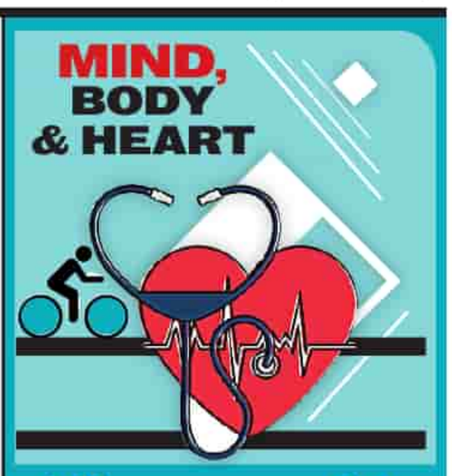
Achieving a certain number of steps per day has also been shown to help people live longer. For those aged 60 and older, the target should be around 6,000 to 8,000 steps a day and 8,000 to 10,000 for those aged under 60. Similar evidence does not appear to exist for Japanese walking…yet.

So is this walking trend really the be-all and end-all? Or does it matter less about what exercise you do and more about how often and how hard you do it? The answer is likely to be the latter.

Research tells us that people who regularly perform more bouts of moderate to vigorous physical activity live longer, regardless of how long each bout is.

This means that we should focus on ensuring we perform regular moderate to vigorous physical activity and make it habitual. If that activity happens to be Japanese walking, then it's a worthwhile choice.

(By Sean Pymer, University of Hull, The Conversation)



All you need to know about...

Statins

Help for sepsis
Statins, which are drugs that help lower 'bad' cholesterol, could lower the death rate by nearly 40 per cent for critically ill patients with sepsis, a study has found.

What is sepsis?
Sepsis, in which the body's immune system overreacts to an infection with an exaggerated inflammation response, can cause organ damage and be life-threatening.

What are statins?
Statins -- mainly used for protecting against cardiovascular disease -- are being studied for treating inflammatory disorders. "Statins have anti-inflammatory, immunomodulatory, antioxidative and antithrombotic properties. They may help mitigate excessive inflammatory response, restore endothelial function, and show potential antimicrobial activities," author Dr Caifeng Li, an associate professor at Tianjin Medical University General Hospital in China, said.

Boosts chances of survival
The study's findings, published in the journal Frontiers in Immunology, show for the first time that a supplementary treatment of hospitalised patients having sepsis with statins could boost their chances of survival, the authors said.
"Our large, matched cohort study found that treatment with statins was associated with a 39 per cent lower death rate for critically ill patients with sepsis when measured over 28 days after hospital admission," Li said.
"Additionally, statin use was associated with decreased ICU mortality and reduced in-hospital mortality," the authors wrote. "These results strongly suggest that statins may provide a protective effect and improve clinical outcomes for patients with sepsis," Li said. However, clinical trials, including randomised controlled ones, are needed to confirm or reject our results, the author added. —PTI

MIRRORLIGHTS

Healthy lifestyle can boost metabolic health even without weight loss: Study

People can improve their health through dietary and lifestyle changes even if they do not lose weight, according to an international study.

The research, conducted by the universities of Ben-Gurion (Israel), Harvard (US), and Leipzig (Germany), focused on individuals described as "weight loss resistant" -- those who adopt healthy habits but struggle to shed pounds, Xinhua news agency reported.

"We have been conditioned to equate weight loss with health, and weight loss-resistant individuals are often labeled as failures," said lead author Anat Yaskolka Meir, postdoctoral research fellow in the Department of Epidemiology at Harvard Chan School.

"Our findings reframe how we define clinical success. People who do not lose weight can improve their metabolism and reduce their long-term risk for disease. That's a message of hope, not failure," Meir added.

Published in the European Journal of Preventive Cardiology, the study challenges the long-standing belief that weight loss is the primary sign of a successful diet. Researchers found that even participants who did not lose weight showed measurable improvements in key health indicators.

The study tracked 761 adults between 18 to 24 months. All participants followed lifestyle changes without taking supplements or medications and were assigned to healthy diets.

Participants also received free gym access and exercise guidance. By the end of the trial, approximately one-third of the participants had not lost weight, despite closely following the programme.

However, they showed improvements in metabolic health, including higher levels of "good" HDL cholesterol, lower levels of leptin (a hormone primarily produced by fat cells), and reductions in abdominal fat, confirmed through MRI scans.

Researchers also identified 12 genetic markers that may influence whether a person is likely to lose weight through lifestyle changes, an insight that could help personalise future diet plans. The findings suggest that healthy eating and exercise can provide significant health benefits even without weight loss, including reduced risk of heart disease and diabetes, the researchers said. —IANS

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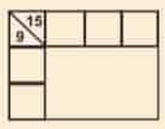
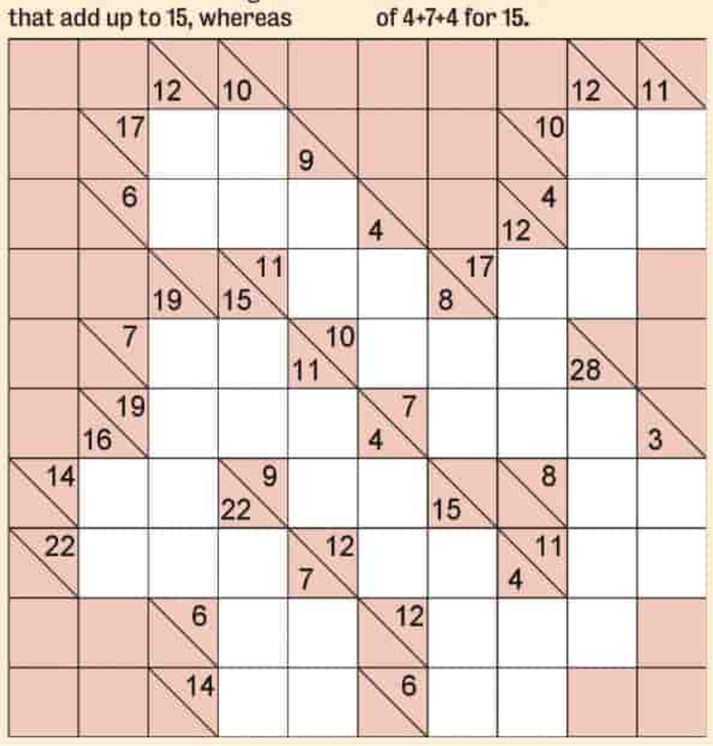
Kakuro

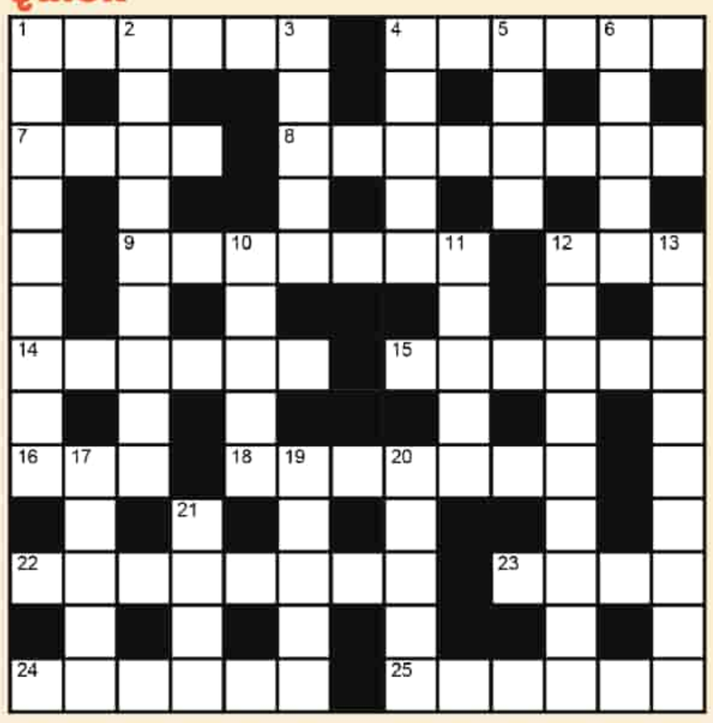
The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.



Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

1 Corpulent (6)
4 Protozoans (6)
7 Throw in the air (4)
8 Prime Minister to Chandragupta Maurya (8)
9 This coastal town in North Karnataka is a popular tourist destination (7)
12 No longer fashionable (3)
14 Checked or controlled (6)
15 Famous spinach consumer (6)
16 Small stocky dog (3)
18 Titled widow (7)
22 A tough or excruciating ordeal? (4-4)
23 Greek goddess of the earth (4)
24 Thwart; hinder (6)
25 Wealth (6)

DOWN

1 About to collapse with exhaustion? (3,2,4)
2 Casual (4-5)
3 Mexican plant (5)
4 Once more (5)
5 Egg shaped (4)
6 Marshy tributary (5)
10 Work bread (5)
11 In the middle of (5)
12 Stretch out too far (9)
13 Actors (9)
17 Full-length (5)
19 Extremely fat (5)
20 Following (5)
21 Dutch cheese (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: N EQUALS T

NUM IBASMCEM FW NUM ZMPN UMQSP HP FWNMC SM-WMQNMS ZG NUM NMCSMBC-MPP FW NUM ZMPN UMQBNP.

Linemaro

Do you work at Starbucks? Because I like you a latte

Mindchow

Virtue, good, evil are nothing but words, unless one takes them apart in order to build something with them; they do not win their true meaning until one knows how to apply them

Joke of the day

I fainted last night... luckily I was going to bed at the time, so I didn't get hurt

Loop

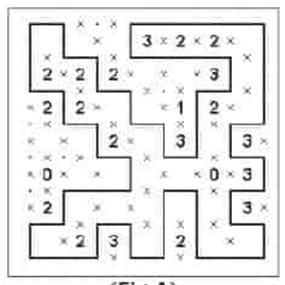
Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.

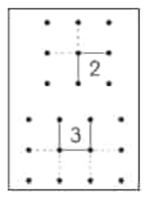
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

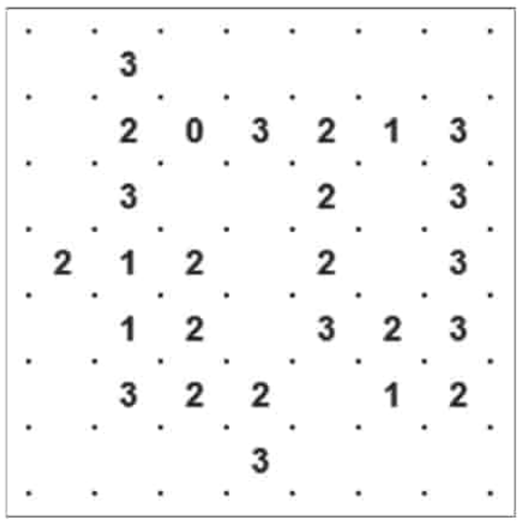
Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



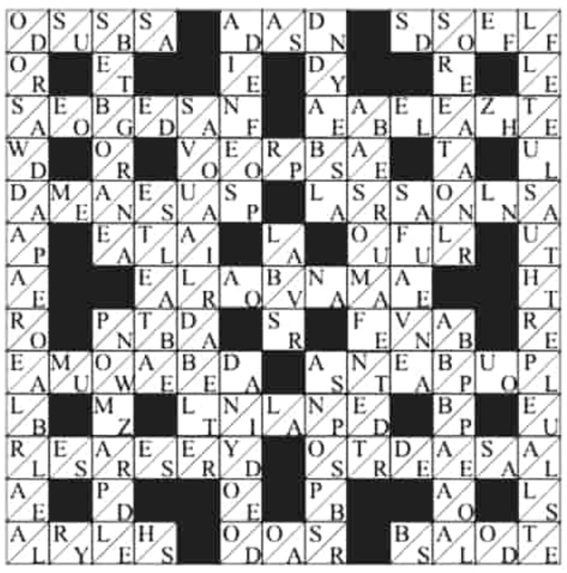
(Fig A)



(Fig B) Not Allowed



Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...

1	2	3	4	5
6				
7				P
8				
9				

ACROSS

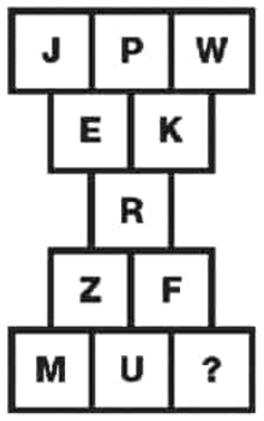
1 G dals; 6 Agree; 7 No sop; 8 Ottar; 9 Lassi

DOWN

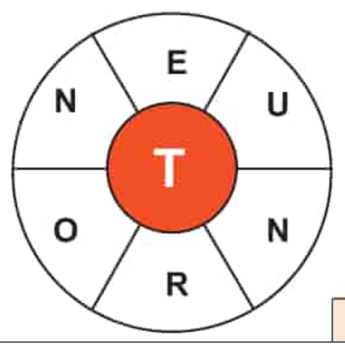
1 S Gets; 2 Liana; 3 A Argo; 4 Or old; 5 Steps

Mensapuzzle

Which letter replaces the question mark and completes the sequence?



Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

14 Average; 16 Good; 18 Outstanding

SudokuChallenge

		4		8				
			2		7	9		
3					9	1	2	
	5			1		4		
	9		4		8		6	
		1		9			3	
	4	2	3					8
		5	9		1			
				7		2		

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

Easy = 1

3 3 6 7

Medium = 10

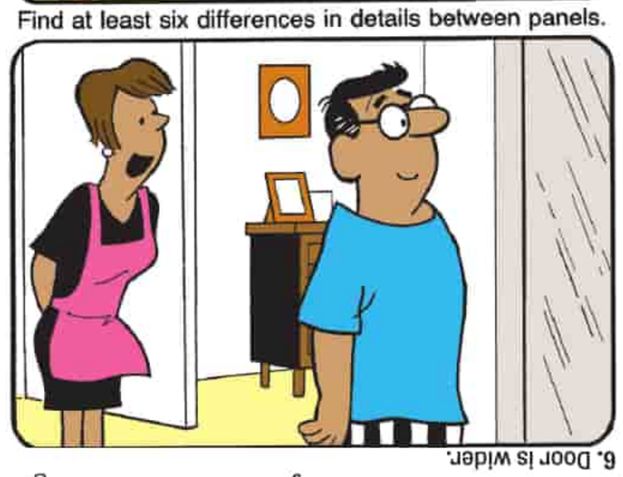
4 6 8 8

Hard = 28

4 5 6 9

Hocusfocus

Find at least six differences in details between panels.



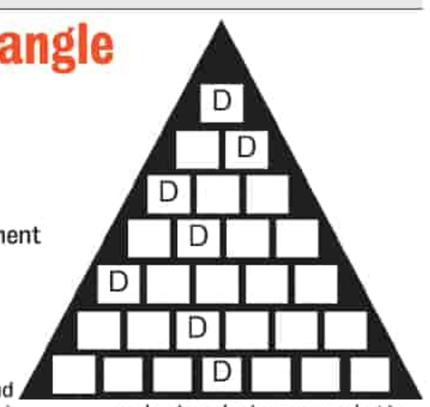
Differences: 1. Dresser leg is moved. 2. Picture frame is moved. 3. Woman is taller. 4. Eye is moved. 5. Ear is larger. 6. Door is wider.

Riddler

Fill in the blank below with a word that means the same as the word on the left when read normally and fits the definition on the right when read backwards. Friends _____ hit sharply. Rinds of fruit _____ What we do with over one third of our lives.

Alpha triangle

1 Vitamin type
2 Identity, abbr.
3 Ear irritator
4 Norse god
5 Performing
6 Auguring
7 Sticking with cement



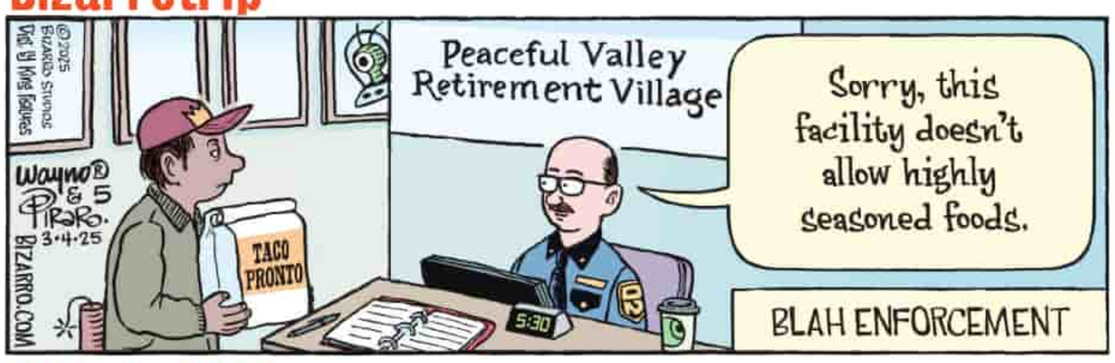
Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE »

COMICS

Popeye

Bizarrotrip



Diamond Lil

Hart of the city

IF I'M COLD, YOU'RE PROBABLY COLD TOO.
THAT'S NICE OF YOU!
YA GOTTA TAKE CARE OF YOUR FAMILY MEMBERS IN THIS MORTAL REALM AND ELSEWHERE.
WHOA. HEAVY. BUT POETIC.
GOCOMICS.COM/HEARTOFTHECITY

Crankshaft

Mutts

MOOCH! WHAT ARE YOU DOING!?!
I'M MAKING SURE No ONE JUMPS UP ON THE TABLE.
THERE ARE RULES IN THIS HOUSE, YOU KNOW!
www.kingfeatures.com
mutts.com 3-4

WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
Today, you are blessed by the Moon, and luck is on your side. Postponed projects may finally take off. The blessings of elders can help you navigate and overcome any lingering confusion, increasing your efficiency at work. Domestic disputes are likely to be resolved, bringing harmony and happiness at home. Your creative interests may flourish.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
The Moon's unfavourable position may leave you feeling low or unwell today. There could be financial losses, so it's wise to avoid investing in risky or unproductive assets. Stay away from controversies, as involvement might harm your reputation or peace of mind. Focus on health and remain cautious in all matters.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
Today brings positive energy, thanks to the Moon's blessings. Love is in the air—singles may find a suitable match. Professionally, you'll do well, and support from friends and colleagues will help you make good progress.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
You'll feel confident today, which will reflect positively in your work. You're likely to overcome rivals and stay focused on your goals. Health may remain stable. However, avoid unnecessary arguments at home, as they could disrupt domestic harmony.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
You're likely to feel upbeat today, blessed by a favourable planetary alignment. Positive energy will boost your social reputation. You may engage in intellectual pursuits or plan for higher studies, contributing to personal and professional growth.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
Negative vibes around you may affect your mood today. Avoid investing in unworthy assets and don't expect much support from others. It's best to rely on yourself and make independent decisions, which will help you stay balanced and focused.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
You may struggle to express yourself clearly today and might feel low in confidence. Trust your instincts when making investment decisions. Colleagues or people around you may not be very cooperative, so it's best to stay patient. Also, avoid unhealthy food to prevent stomach-related issues.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
Your enthusiasm will rise today with strong support from family and friends. You might consider home renovation or purchase decorative items that elevate your social status. There's a possibility of increasing your fixed assets, enhancing your long-term stability.

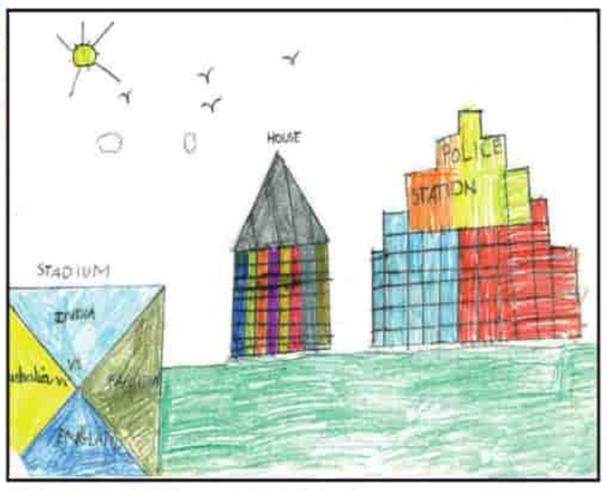
Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
Today brings good financial gains with minimal effort. Losses may turn into profits through your wisdom. You might pursue academic upgrades or donate to religious or charitable causes. Helping those in need could bring spiritual satisfaction. Students will perform well, and investing in intellectual assets may be beneficial.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
You may feel low and face minor health issues. Be cautious, especially if you have chronic conditions. Avoid rash driving and hasty decisions. Postpone major business moves for now, especially if there's tension with partners. However, elder blessings may bring relief by evening and help stabilise the situation.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
Your destiny seems favorable today. With elder blessings, stalled projects may move forward, and previous issues will begin to resolve. Domestic harmony will be restored as family disputes get settled. Your creativity may shine, especially in artistic or glamorous fields.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
A positive and energetic day lies ahead. With strong focus, you're likely to excel in your work or business. Your boss may appreciate your efforts and assign you new responsibilities or even a promotion. A visit to a religious place may bring peace. However, be mindful of your attitude in relationships—avoid arrogance in love.

KIDZONE



Adithya Prasad, 10 Years, Brigade School

Gowri S Setty, 15 Years, Prarthana School

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru-560 011;
Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M
24 - 20÷4 + 4 x 1
24 - 5 + 4
19 + 4 = 23

RIDDLER
Pals (slap) & peels (sleep)

STRIKE OUT

L	Y	E	S		D	O	S		S	L	O	E		
E		D		E		B		A		S				
L	E	A	S	E	D		O	R	D	E	A	L		
L		M		L	I	A	N	E		P		U		
A	M	O	E	B	A		S	T	E	P	U	P		
R		P	T	A		S		E	V	A		E		
A		A	L	A	B	A	M	A				H		
P		E	L	I		L		O	U	R		T		
A	E	N	E	A	S		A	R	S	O	N	S		
W		O		V	E	R	S	A		T		L		
A	E	G	E	A	N		A	B	L	A	Z	E		
R		E		I		Y		R		E				
D	U	B	S		D	A	N		D	O	E	F		

QUICK

S	T	Y	M	I		E	R	I	C	H	E	S		
	U		A		S		E			C		N		
A	C	I	D	T	E	S	T		G	A	I	A		
	N		E		B		F		E			I		
P	U	G		D	O	W	A	G	E	R		P		
O		N		A		N		R				S		
R	E	I	N	E	D		P	O	P	E	Y	E		
D		O		N		M			V		H			
O		G	O	K	A	R	N	A		O	U	T		
T		Y		C		I		L		O				
T	O	S	S		C	H	A	N	A	K	Y	A		
I		A		U		G		V		A				
F	L	E	S	H	Y		A	M	O	E	B	A		

STRIKE OUT

L	Y	E	S		D	O	S		S	L	O	E		
E		D		E		B		A		S				
L	E	A	S	E	D		O	R	D	E	A	L		
L		M		L	I	A	N	E		P		U		
A	M	O	E	B	A		S	T	E	P	U	P		
R		P	T	A		S		E	V	A		E		
A		A	L	A	B	A	M	A				H		
P		E	L	I		L		O	U	R		T		
A	E	N	E	A	S		A	R	S	O	N	S		
W		O		V	E	R	S	A		T		L		
A	E	G	E	A	N		A	B	L	A	Z	E		
R		E		I		Y		R		E				
D	U	B	S		D	A	N		D	O	E	F		

RIDDLER
Pals (slap) & peels (sleep)

FAST FIVE

G	L	A	D	S
E	A	G	R	E
S	N	O	O	P
T	A	R	O	T
S	I	A	L	S

QUOTE UNCODE
The prudence of the best heads is often defeated by the tenderness of the best hearts.

MENSA PUZZLE
A. Starting in the top left, and moving in rows, left to right, top to bottom, letters advance through the alphabet in steps of 6, 7 and 8

NEUTRON, note, rent, rote, rout, route, runt, tenor, tone, toner, tore, torn, tour, true, tune, tuner, turn, unto

BULL'S EYE

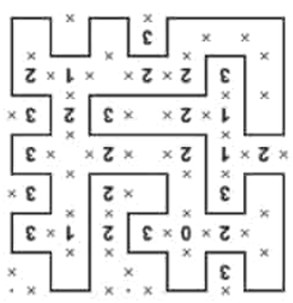
SUDOKU

6	3	9	8	7	4	2	1	5
7	8	5	9	2	1	3	4	6
1	4	2	3	5	6	7	9	8
4	6	1	7	9	5	8	3	2
2	9	7	4	3	8	5	6	1
8	5	3	6	1	2	4	7	9
3	7	8	5	6	9	1	2	4
5	1	6	2	4	7	9	8	3
9	2	4	1	8	3	6	5	7

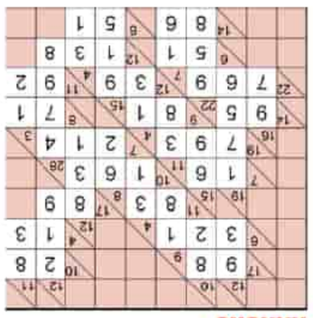
ALPHA TRIANGLE
D, Id, Din, Odin, Doing, Boding, Bonding.

GO FIGURE
3 - 6 - 3 + 7 = 1
Medium
8 + 6 + 4 - 8 = 10
Hard
9 - 5 x 6 + 4 = 28

LOOP



KAKURO



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 # Lifetime achievement award to Kim Novak
'Vertigo' star Kim Novak to receive Golden Lion lifetime achievement award at Venice Film Festival

JUST A HINT

Viral video of Vedang, Khushi has set fans speculating once again

Khushi Kapoor and Vedang Raina are rumoured to be dating for a while now. The duo made their debut together in Zoya Akhtar's 'The Archies'. Since then, they've made several appearances together and sparked dating rumours. Recently, Khushi posted a photo wearing a necklace that had a pendant with the letter 'V' which made fans feel that she's just confirmed her relationship with him.

And now this video further gives a vibe that they are very much together. Khushi and Vedang were twinning in black and they seem to be indulged in an intimate, intense conversation. When Khushi was walking, Vedang just holded her hand and slightly pulled her. This video was shared by Voompla and also went viral. Following the conversation, Khushi headed toward a sleek luxury car waiting just outside the building. Moments later, Vedang emerged from the party as well, though the two departed in different vehicles. Before getting into his car, Vedang flashed a warm smile and gave a friendly wave to the paparazzi outside.

Fans thought that it's a breach of privacy to capture a video like this, as the gate of the bungalow was open. But many fans absolutely loved their chemistry in this video and dropped hearts. Some users said they were indulging in a couple's fight or argument. A user said, "Looks like a Bollywood scene." Another one remarked, "Scripted." Further, a netizen wrote, "Real life loveyapa."

Just last week, Vedang Raina—who was recently seen in Jigra opposite Alia Bhatt—celebrated his 25th birthday in London, surrounded by a close-knit circle of friends and family. Among the attendees was his rumoured girlfriend, Khushi Kapoor. A candid snapshot from the celebration, shared by their mutual friend Kareema Barry on Instagram, offered a glimpse into the cozy gathering. In the picture, Vedang and Khushi, both dressed in black, stood side by side as he cut his birthday cakes. Khushi was seen clapping for him. Khushi and Vedang have not yet officially confirmed their relationship.

—ETimes

SANDALWOOD SHOTS
Y MAHESWARA REDDY

Manifold roles

Award-winning director Satya Prakash is excited about the release of his movie X & Y, which he is directing, bankrolling and debuting as a hero with. The film is scheduled for release on June 26. Satya Prakash has won the Karnataka State Film Award for Rama Rama Re. His other movie Ondalla Eradalla won two awards at the 66th National Film Awards. The director-cum-actor plays an auto rickshaw driver, who converts his auto into an ambulance, in X & Y. Recently, he unveiled the ambulance auto and it has received good response from auto drivers. "I play an ambulance auto rickshaw driver who gives free service to pregnant women and those who need medical care," he said.

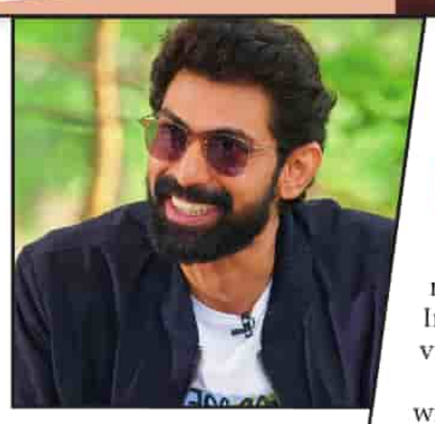
Elaborating on the concept, he said there are , but there is an acute shortage for people who practice what they preach. "Our movie also highlights this issue in a humorous way," he said.

Whatever works

Tollywood star Rana Daggubati has joined the ongoing discussion about work-life balance following Deepika Padukone's alleged demand for eight-hour workdays in Sandeep Reddy Vanga's film 'Spirit', which recently stirred considerable buzz in the entertainment industry.

In an interview with The Lallantop, Rana offered a perspective on the practicality of implementing uniform work schedules in the Indian film industry. "We should understand that India is a developing country. We are not a developed nation. Our economy is probably 186th in the world if you look at the per capita income. So to me, it is not work, it is a lifestyle," he stated. Rana also highlighted the diverse nature of film production across various regions. He further shared his view on the physical and mental toll of extended shooting schedules on actors.

"Nobody is forcing anybody.



It's a job. It's a choice. Everyone has their own opinion on what's important to them," he said.

—ETimes

Happy 11th

One of the most adored couples in the South, Nayanthara and Vignesh Shivan never fail to shell couple goals.

As the lovebirds completed 11 years of marital bliss, the filmmaker took to his official Instagram handle and dropped a throwback video from one of their family holidays.

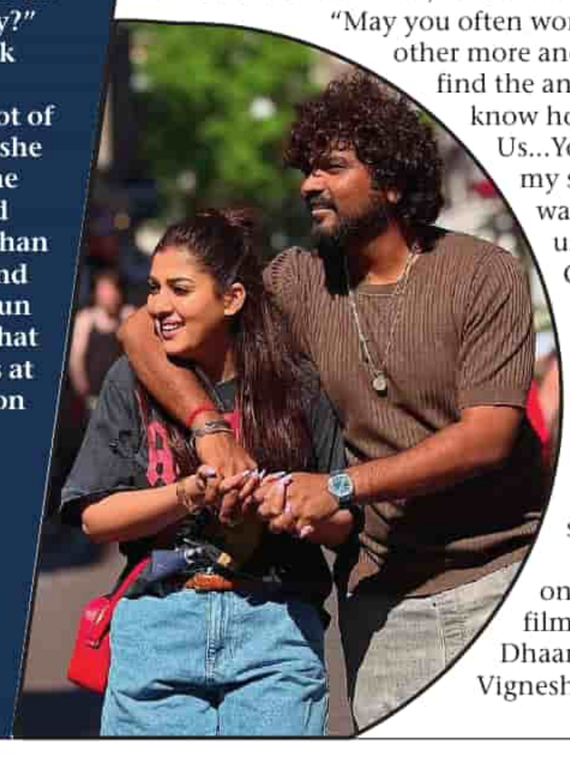
The clip showed Vignesh riding a bicycle with Nayanthara and their two boys - Uyir and Ulag enjoying themselves in the sidecar. The clip captured a perfect family moment of the four.

Thanking the universe for a life filled with love, Vignesh wrote in the caption, "Neeyum Naanum...uyirum Ulagum...blessed by God & the beautiful universe to have a life that's filled with only love #HappyWeddingAnniversary my Thangamey @nayanthara 11 years of togetherness."

Nayanthara also used social media to wish her husband on their wedding anniversary. Treating the netizens with a string of pictures of the two with their little munchkins, the stunner wrote on her IG, "May you often wonder who loves the other more and may you never find the answer." "Don't know how else to describe Us...You are everything my soul has ever wanted...From two of us to Four of us... Couldn't have asked for more... You showed me what LOVE should be like! Happy Anniversary partner...Love you, Always & Forever," she concluded.

The couple met on the set of the 2015 film "Naanum Rowdy Dhaan" directed by Vignesh.

—IANS



Village frictions

The muhurat of Choo Baana was held at Kashi Vishwanatha Temple on Thursday. Kannada Movie Directors' Association president NRK Vishwanath sounded the clap board while Cinematographers' Association president JG Krishna switched on the camera. Choo Baana is being bankrolled by SK Firoze Basha of Vijayawada under the SK Bhasha Films banner. Firoze Basha is playing the lead in the movie while SR Pramod is handling the megaphone for the movie which is expected to go on floors next week. It is the ninth movie for Pramod. Prior to this, he has directed Kannada movies including Achala, Aathma, and Om Shanti Om.

"The movie showcases how petty politics and communal issues are ruining peace and prosperity in rural areas. It is a known fact that untouchability is in practice in a few villages. There are frictions among the villagers based on caste. Our movie will convey a message to society, especially those practicing untouchability in rural areas," said the director.

He said the movie shooting will be held at a village near Mysuru next week. "We are planning to complete the shooting in a single schedule," he said.

Sarah all the way

Sarah Snook won the Best Actress in a Leading Role in a Play at the 2025 Tony Awards. Snook took on all 26 roles in "The Picture of Dorian Gray," the 1890 philosophical fiction and Gothic horror by Oscar Wilde, according to the New York Post.

The production is innovative, requiring Snook to play all 26 characters, including the title character, who trades his soul for eternal youth.

Snook originally won the Olivier Award for best actress in 2024 for her performance in the one-woman production in the West End. During her acceptance speech in April, the 'Succession' star talked about her mindset surrounding the play.

Snook recalled that a month before opening, she "felt distant from the play and hadn't learned my lines. I just felt, 'What am I doing? Why am I doing a 60,000-word monologue with an eight-month-old baby?" reported the New York Post.

"So I was doing a lot of night breastfeeding," she continued. "And in the evening when I would wake up then rather than being on my phone and feeding her, I would run over the lines. I find that if you learn your lines at night and then sleep on them they do go in more effectively," as per the outlet.

Snook shared earlier how she kept herself fit. "No alcohol, no caffeine. Sleep, sleep, sleep, sleep..."

—IANS